

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT The Organization of the SED  
and Working Conditions in Wismut A.G.

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PLACE 25X1

NO. OF ENCL'S.  
(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED [REDACTED] Item No. 10  
DATE OF INFO. 25X1 Change in Class. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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[REDACTED] IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The SED members among the employees of Wismut A. G. are organized under the Kreisvorstand Wismut of the SED, located at Sigmar-Schönau, near Chemnitz. There are approximately 9,000 members of the SED in the various Wismut enterprises, comprising about 7 percent of Wismut's labor force.

2. The Kreisvorstand supervises the activities of 18 Departments (Arbeitsgebiete), of which Objekt OS (Arbeitsgebiet 02) Oberschlema is by far the biggest. [REDACTED] it has nearly 22,000 employees, of whom 1870 are members of the SED. Arbeitsgebiet 02 in turn consists of the following 17 Factory Groups (Betriebsgruppen): Shafts Nrs. 4, 6, 12, 13, and 15; Transportation Sections Nrs. 1, 2, and 3; Fire Department; Mine Police; Administration; Ore Processing; Billeting Section; Hospital; Central Repair Shop; Zwickau Barracks; and Dormitories. The Factory Groups are again subdivided into shift-sections (in the shafts) or subsections (in the other groups). The number of the shift- or sub-sections varies according to the size of the Factory Groups. The biggest Factory Group is Shaft Nr. 6, where 365 are members of the SED. Shaft Nr. 6 has 42 shift-sections.

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3. [REDACTED] the above top-to-bottom organization exists mostly on paper. While the Kreisvorstand considers the shift-sections as fully existent and competent to pass resolutions (beschlussfähig), the political activity of the shift-sections is virtually zero. Higher-level functionaries are forced, however, to submit fictional reports on the effectiveness of the shift-sections to avoid the displeasure of the Russian political officers, who are particularly concerned with the effectiveness of the party organization on the lower levels.

4. The lack of effectiveness of the SED party organization is reliably shown by the following quotations from a letter which was sent to the SED Kreisvorstand Wismut, Organization Branch, by [REDACTED] of the Factory Group of Shaft Nr. 6. The letter is dated 14 July 1949:

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**"Honored Comrades!"**

**[REDACTED REPORT ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE KREIS GROUP ACTIVITIES]**

Since you requested us to submit examples of our factory group activities for the meeting of the Kreis Organization Commission which is to take place on 16 July, I hereby report the following about my factory group:

First of all, I would like to remark that in Shaft Nr. 6 especially there are certain unfavorable conditions which I, as a member of the Kreis Organization Commission, must not disregard.

**Regarding Item No. 1:**

The labor force of Shaft Nr. 6 has tripled within a very short time. Nevertheless production continues to lag, as it has every month since November 1948. Correction of this condition requires enormous work from the few active comrades. Accordingly we did not find it possible to hold regularly scheduled meetings to promote increased production for the following reasons:

a) In accordance with the directive of the Kreisvorstand, I had to cease my own recruiting and planning activities. The result was that the work was left undone.

b) The functionaries of our factory group were unable to find living quarters in Oberschlema. Result: the work of these functionaries is severely handicapped. We will be able to comply with the provisions of Item 1 of the resolution as soon as a healthier condition for our work can be realized.

**Regarding Item No. 2:**

The work plans of the Departments (Arbeitsgebiete) are received here around the first of every month. While the FDJ, FDGB, and SED coordinate their respective work plans, each organization follows basically its own schedule.

However, I have some specific remarks concerning the plans as forwarded to us by the Kreisvorstand and the Department:

Comrades! You set us tasks and target dates which presuppose the existence of an active organization functioning down to its lowest level. Otherwise the tasks given us could not possibly be fulfilled. However, you do not consider that the work load on our functionaries is already too great. Burdened down with all sorts of duties resulting from the enormous increase of the labor force, they stand like lone trees in the storm. How do you expect them to organize for a second two-year plan? Where is the oft-proclaimed protection of the cadre? **[REDACTED] YOU SO FAR UP IN THE WORLD THAT YOU CAN NO LONGER UNDERSTAND [REDACTED] CADRES, REMEMBER! YOUR ABSURD TARGET DATES BRING US INTO SERIOUS CONFLICTS OF CONSCIENCE,**

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archives of the Central Intelligence Agency, United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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or possibly into an insane asylum. We tested the effectiveness of our [redacted] by setting each month [redacted] a specific [redacted]

[redacted] as party members in organizational statistics have never paid dues. In addition we found that many so-called party members considered their political duties fulfilled if their wives paid their membership dues once a month. This condition was corrected, and we now collect dues from approximately fifty percent of the party members.

Regarding Item 4:

We have renewed our efforts to organize the lowest levels. We have established 42 shift-sections instead of the 24 we had heretofore. The full development of these 42 sections will require at least two months. However, we ought to have some guarantee that the August production plan will not require the transfer of our newly organized members. It is impossible to create competent and active shift-sections if the work assignments are changed every month.

Regarding Item 6:

There is nothing much to say. You cannot speak of "leading activists" when the organization, as a whole, is inactive.

Regarding Item 7:

We have never seen the work of the PPA-commissions (Personalpolitische Abteilung - cadre section) in our factory group; therefore we are hardly in a position to suggest candidates for such work. The work of such commissions is certainly required. We have a number of membership applications on file which need to be processed. There are individuals who would like to become members of the party and who have been disappointed because no action was taken on their requests. They cannot help believing that we, the party of the new type (Partei neuen Typus), are not too interested in recruiting progressive elements.

The undesirable conditions to which I have called your attention are not caused by the lack of efficiency, or enthusiasm, of the party's functionaries here. They are caused by the exaggerated demands of the Objekt and Departmental managements. Our functionaries have no executive authority. They are being blamed nevertheless for all the red tape and bureaucratic inefficiency. There is no doubt that the SED suffers strongly as a result of the unsatisfactory conditions within the (Wismut) organization. Furthermore, the directives received from higher party headquarters come usually too late. The occurrences of the 7th and 26th of May and the 5th and 6th of June have again demonstrated that our warnings were well justified and that the Objekt, Departmental, and Kreis leaderships have made a serious mistake in disregarding them. Take for example the 5th and 6th of June (Whitsuntide); the Objekt management directed that the 4th and 7th of June are to be regarded as normal work days.

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~~Now, we also know the special circumstances prevailing in our~~

~~friends, especially since these holidays are the last before Christmas. This natural wish of the laboring men could have been easily complied with by permitting them to work voluntary shifts in lieu of their time off on the 4th and the 7th. Thus we could have given those of our people who wanted it two full days off without any loss of overall production, while at the same time we could have kept the work going on the 4th and the 7th through volunteers."~~

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5. The views of the Factory Group Chairman are fully endorsed [redacted] 25X1 while frequent press reports of concentration camp conditions in Wismut A. G. are grossly exaggerated, the Objekt and Departmental management, as well as the SED Kreisvorstand, live in an atmosphere so far removed from the working conditions and circumstances of the workers that the reasonable demands of the latter are misunderstood and disregarded. For instance, on 25 June 1949 the Chief Organizer of the Wismut Kreisvorstand, Wolf, made inter alia the following statements:

"...I am telling you that our workers have recognized that only through an increase in their work delivery quota can they reach higher living standards. They have reached the stage where they themselves demand a revision of the work quota, the introduction of the competitive production system, and the rejection of the old capitalistic production practices. They realize that through increased individual production they are helping the unification of Germany."

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6. [redacted] the actual conditions and the mentality of the workers are far different from what Wolf stated them to be. The failure of the Objekt management to give Whitsuntide furloughs has evoked the widest dissatisfaction among the workers, approximately 70 percent of whom are working away from their home towns. The result was that on the 4th and 7th June in Shaft 6 alone over 49,000 man-hours were lost due to absenteeism. The Objekt management retaliated by withholding food and textile rations from those who absented themselves without leave on account of Whitsuntide. This resulted in further absenteeism, with the result that Shaft 6 fell 30 percent behind on its June delivery quota.

7. The chairman of Kreisvorstand Wismut is Kurt Böhme. Approximately 40 years of age, he is responsible for all activities of the SED, FDGB, and the FDJ in the Wismut area. He was a delegate to the 3rd Volkskongress. Personal description: 6 ft. tall, fat, black wavy hair.

8. Besides Böhme, the following are the full-time, paid functionaries of the Kreisvorstand Wismut:

Organisationsleiter (Chief Organizer): (fmu) Wolf. 35 years of age, he was assigned to his present duties on 1 June 1949. Formerly said to have been an instructor at the Karl Marx School in Berlin. Personal description: 5 ft, 7 in. tall, black hair, pock-marked.

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Press, Education and Cultural Referent: Herbert Glückner,

[redacted] Responsible for the [redacted] 25X1  
 [redacted] selection of the SED in  
 Wismut. Supervises the party schools  
 in Aue, Kirchberg, Schwarzenberg,  
 and Johann-Georgenstadt. [redacted] 25X1  
 marxist, but has openly criticized  
 soviet practices. Description:  
 5 ft., 7 in.; dark blond hair; slim.  
 Everyday appearance.

Personnel Section:

Herbert Pomp, 45 years old; 5 ft., 5 in;  
 dark blond, [redacted] 25X1  
 Under Pomp the Personnel Section  
 became a small-scale political police.  
 It investigates candidates for party  
 membership, maintains surveillance  
 of suspected members, especially  
 functionaries, and conducts, from time  
 to time, investigations concerning  
 the activities of functionaries  
 connected with economic matters.  
 Pomp is assisted by Herbert Läme,  
 approximately 30 years old, light  
 blond hair, wears green tweed suit.  
 Happy-go-lucky.

Youth Section:

Manfred Kluge. Responsible for  
 coordination between the FDJ and the  
 SED. Charged with the selection of  
 new candidates for the cadre of the  
 SED. 24 years old, 5 ft, 9 in.;  
 blond, long hair, usually wears  
 double-breasted blue suit. [redacted]

Labor and Welfare Section: Presently unoccupied.

Women's Section: Presently unoccupied.

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